

A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES PRT 2

Thank you for joining us today and if you were not here last week, you find us doing the second part of a series titled **A BREEDING GROUND FOR MIRACLES**.

Last week we established that at some point we all need a miracle and miracles are part and parcel of a believer's life. However, we got to learn that miracles are not necessarily the first option in the eyes of God in meeting our needs – as far as God is concerned, His desire is for His Children to live in a state of blessedness.

Since miracles are necessary, we need to know how to receive them, and we learnt that there are 3 basic conditions that need to be met in your life for you to experience God's miracles.

1. The presence of a humanly impossible situation.

2. The presence of God

3. The presence of faith

We are going to kickstart today's teaching on that last condition because it has a lot to do with you and not so much with God.

- God is the source of miracles but to receive them, you need to put your faith to work on your behalf.
- Your faith is the breeding ground for miracles, and we are going to explore how to **PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK**.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

- It took a measure of faith to be saved and to everyone who is saved, there is a measure of faith.
- The issue is whether you have grown your faith and are putting that faith to work for you.
- Before we get into that, I want to answer a question regarding miracles and that is:

Can We Still Experience Miracles Today?

- The best way to answer that question is to look at whether the God of the Bible is still the God of today and the answer is a resounding YES!

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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Malachi 3:6 "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

- God has not changed; He is still the same God with the same power. In other words, anyone can experience a miracle.
- The tricky part is that no one can tell you why or when you will experience a miracle in your life.
- This means that miracles will only happen when God causes them, and He does them as he deems necessary and as it relates to His will for your life.
- Expect 2 answers when you pray for a miracle; its either God grants you the miracle or He grants you the grace to endure the situation.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28

- Yes, many people were healed during the ministry of Jesus here on earth but not everyone was healed. The crippled man on the beautiful gate was not healed during the ministry of Jesus, he only got healed after Jesus had died and rose from the dead.
- The reason why you need to put your faith to work is that the things that God has in store for you need your active participation.
- In Christianity, things don't happen outside of your involvement.
- There are some people who want to experience the miraculous but are not ready to make a move.

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26 NKJV).

- Miracles happen when you put your faith to work and now is the time to make a move.
- It has never been an issue of God's capacity to perform miracles but has always been the issue with the recipient.
- It is the person who chooses to step out in faith that enjoys God's wonders.
- Many times, we claim to wait for God, but God is the one that is waiting for us.
- By looking at the miracles in the Bible, we are going to learn how to make our faith work on our behalf and by so doing creating a breeding ground for miracles.

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Mark 6:1 And He went out from there and came into His native-place. And His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the sabbath day had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him, were astonished, saying, Where does this one get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to him, that even such mighty works are done by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor, except in his native-place, and among his own kin, and in his own house. 5 And He could do no work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick ones, He healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. And He went around the villages, in a circuit, teaching.

1. Do not be familiar with God

- Here is Jesus coming to His hometown, the same Jesus who did mighty works elsewhere, was not able to experience the same results in Nazareth.
- Nothing had changed with Jesus, but the environment was toxic for miracles to occur.
- He was not received with the respect and honor that would have been expected, but rather He received a cold welcome, one full of contempt – *“And many hearing Him, were astonished, saying, Where does this one get these things?”*
- Yes, they heard the power and authority behind His word, they heard about His great miracles, but it was too good to come out of such a small man – they were greatly offended by Jesus.
- For you to receive miracles in your life, refuse to become familiar with God and His work.
- Being familiar with God means you casually relate with God to the extend of losing respect and reverence for God and what pertains to Him.
- Nazareth missed out on many miracles because they were familiar with Jesus to the point of being offended.
- You cannot receive from someone you have no regard for – whatever that person does is below your attention.
- The more familiar you are with God, the less you are likely to receive from God

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- Familiarity will cause you to lose interest in searching scriptures – with familiarity, you end up just brushing through the stories of the Bible because you think you know all about David and Bathsheba for instance.
- Familiarity with scriptures will cause you to read your truth into scripture, instead of getting truth from scripture.
 - The bible never said money is the root of all evil
 - The Bible never said Adam and Eve regularly walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden. The Bible says God walked in the Garden the day they ate the fruit (Genesis 3:8) but never says this was his common practice.
- The opposite of familiarity is to highly regard someone
- Your miracle is attached to your ability to always revere and highly regard God in your heart – a person that highly regards God does several things:
 - Gives God His undivided attention – what matters to God matters to him
 - Places God first above everything else.
 - Gives God the best he has to offer and not leftovers.
 - Is responsive to God's commands – he does not take lightly what God says
- Many people have outgrown their first love for God such that God has become a second thought in their lives.
- What used to move them whilst still young in the Lord is no longer moving them – there is a professionalism that has stepped in (we repent when we feel like it, our opinions take precedence over God's ways).
- It is impossible to have faith in God's ability when you view Him like a little brother in your own eyes.

Mark 6: 5 And He could do no work of power there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick ones, He healed them.